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You're invited! Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day 2025

August 9, 2025 | 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Brigadier General Charles E McGee Library
(Silver Spring) – 900 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring

This year's event is bigger than ever!

Just like hamburgers and milkshakes, or swimming pools and sunny days, music festivals and summertime go perfectly together—which is why one of MCPL's most popular events is happening this August.

Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day festival, is a joyous, interactive, and inspiring celebration of sound that takes place **August 9, 2025**, at the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring) from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

This **free event** is open to music lovers of all ages and is hosted by MCPL in collaboration with FOLMC, The Levine School, and the Mid-Atlantic Scratch League (MASL). Now in its 7th year, Vinyl Day has become one of the library's biggest events, and it draws more than 2,000 participants.

Attendees can take part in a variety of fun, music-themed activities, from songwriting workshops to a design-your-own album cover class—even lessons at the turntable from MASL's experts, which returns by popular demand.

DJ Virak Sath co-founded MASL in 1997 to celebrate the art of turntablism, and his goal is to inspire others to preserve this musical culture, even as it shifts to digital formats.

"The library is the perfect place for learning this culture," Sath says, "People don't really see turntables anymore, and so scratching and having younger generations try their hand really gets them interested—not just in DJ'ing but also musical knowledge and art in general."



Other Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day activities include:

- Storytimes
- Vinyl Listening Sessions
- Make Your Own Album Cover Workshops
- Songwriting Workshops
- Kids Dance Parties
- Music Production Basics
- Graffiti Tag Workshops
- STEM Music Activities
- And more



With so much music around, we couldn't let you leave empty handed. FOLMC Bookstore staff will have crates of literally thousands of vinyl records on hand for purchase at wallet-friendly prices, plus special items priced accordingly.

Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day is a great way for everyone to come together, connect with library resources, and celebrate music. See for yourself what it's all about!

*Pictured are attendees at 2024's Vinyl Record Day.
Photo credits: Jason Turner*





From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director, FOLMC

Young People 'Have the Power:'

Amplifying Teen Voices through FOLMC Initiatives

For those of us of “a certain age,” flipping through a comic book or putting a needle on a record player may inspire feelings of nostalgia, but it’s encouraging to know that these activities aren’t stuck in the past. Thanks to the efforts of younger generations, both mediums have experienced a resurgence—as well as an evolution.

Enchanted by the mellow sound and mod aesthetic of vinyl records, new legions of young fans helped vinyl records stage an amazing comeback recently, and they now generate more than a billion dollars in sales each year.

Comic books, which date back as far as the 19th Century, wisely responded to changing cultural landscapes by introducing more diverse characters and inclusive storylines. They’ve inspired countless TV and film spinoffs and have become more popular than ever. Even the rise of comic conventions, or Comic-Cons, demonstrates fans’ commitment to their favorite, fictional worlds.

Just as we can give credit to younger audiences for maintaining the “staying power” of vinyl records and comic books, FOLMC wants to ensure that libraries, too, stay “top of mind” for every young person.

It’s essential for young people to continue to champion libraries after they graduate from high school, so that they grow into adults who support the library.



Photo Credit: Ari Z. Brooks

Shizuko “Zuzu” Suliman presented the Cosplay Contest’s peer-to-peer award at MoComCon 2025

Engaging teens in library planning and decision making is a great place to start.

- FOLMC is growing library leadership by having student members on our Board of Trustees. Their voices help determine which programs and enhancements best serve the teen population in Montgomery County.
- FOLMC’s Student Representatives, Aditya Kumar and Shizuko “Zuzu” Suliman, also served as judges at MoComCon, MCPL’s comic convention, where they presented a peer-to-peer award for the Cosplay Contest.
- FOLMC also provides supplemental funding, programming, and materials to MCPL’s Teen Advisory Board, which implements, promotes, and advocates for youth services in Montgomery County.

Through engagement, teens can develop a love for learning and an understanding that libraries are an essential resource throughout their lives — and that makes our mission as Friends sustainable.

We congratulate Aditya and Zuzu for their service to FOLMC this year and look forward to continuing to amplify teen voices through FOLMC’s important youth initiatives, because as the comics remind us, they “have the power!”

Congratulations, *Mosaic* Winners!

Mosaic is an annual language arts program for middle school students to showcase their creative talents and express their cultural identities. Winners and Honorable Mentions are published in the FOLMC Mosaic Anthology, which you can order by visiting www.folmc.org. Join us in congratulating our 2024-2025 Mosaic Winners and Honorable Mentions!

6th Grade Winners

Antara Popuri, Essay, Thomas W. Pyle M.S.
Leila Quintana, Poem, Hallie Wells M.S.
Robyn Gray, Short Story, Eastern M.S.

6th Grade Honorable Mentions

Andyhewsil Kifelew, Essay, Sligo M.S.
Lyna Doye, Poem, Eastern M.S.
Eldana Biyisa, Poem, Silver Creek M.S.
Eliot Kee, Poem, Takoma Park M.S.

7th Grade Winners

Khanh Pham, Essay, Herbert Hoover M.S.
Lucy McNary, Poem, Silver Creek M.S.
Leo Selender, Short Story,
Herbert Hoover M.S.*

7th Grade Honorable Mentions

Joy Liang, Essay, Cabin John M.S.
Rohan Seam, Poem, Herbert Hoover M.S.
Derek Zhang, Poem, Robert Frost M.S.
Abigail Fielding, Poem, Cabin John M.S.

8th Grade Winners

Oluwaferanmi Joy Abiola, Essay,
Argyle M.S.
Sofia Ou, Poem, Eastern M.S.
Sarrah Fahmy, Short Story,
Herbert Hoover M.S.
Olivia Lee, Short Story, Eastern M.S.

8th Grade Honorable Mentions

Caleb Kaba, Essay, Eastern M.S.
Farah Hawks, Poem, Eastern M.S.

* Best in Show



A Note from MCPL Director Darcell Graham



Dear Friends,

Summer is almost here, and with it comes one of our most beloved traditions at Montgomery County Public Libraries: The **Summer Reading Challenge!**

This year's theme, "**Color Our World**," invites readers of all ages to explore new stories, discover new skills, and engage with their community in fresh and exciting ways. This year, we are partnering with Levine Music, Olney Theatre Center, and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County to help make the arts more accessible to youth in Montgomery County. We're especially excited that the Summer Reading Challenge is now **open to everyone—kids, teens, and adults** alike.

Thanks to FOLMC's continued support, last year's program was a huge success:

- **More than 17,000 residents** registered for the challenge – a 20 percent increase over 2023.
- Branches hosted **hundreds of programs** that reached thousands of attendees across the county
- The debut of the Adult Summer Reading (ASR) program drew an impressive 3,915 participants, exceeding expectations and setting the stage for future growth.
- The Washington Nationals distributed 6,388 game tickets to Early Literacy challenge participants, and they will return as a partner this year.
- This summer, we're building on that momentum with even more robust programming. A few highlights:
- **Kick-off celebrations in June at Chevy Chase, Germantown, and Twinbrook Libraries.**
- **Outdoor Storytimes and performances** to engage young readers and their families.
- STEM workshops, creative arts programs, and teen volunteer opportunities.
- **Author talks, writing workshops, and book clubs for adults**—because reading should be a lifelong adventure.

We're also already lacing up our sneakers for the upcoming **FOLMC Read. Run. Repeat. Run/Walk for Libraries** event! I'm excited to form MCPL teams to participate together, and to cheer on this community celebration of literacy and wellness.

Your generosity continues to make these fun, educational, and community-centered experiences possible. Thank you for standing with us as we bring stories, learning, and connection to Montgomery County.

Warmly,

Darcell

FOLMC Funded Activities

Below are highlights of the programs FOLMC funded in Winter 2024–2025 through speaker fees, supplies, and equipment. To see a complete list, please check out our calendar at www.folmc.org. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for their dedication to our mission.

Aspen Hill Library

- Dancing to the Beat! Intro to Hand Dance Workshop
- Teen Art Club

Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring)

- Dog Man: A Supa Epic Celebration
- Alpha Phi Alpha presents the Charles E. McGee Scholarship and STEM Career Presentation

Chevy Chase Library

- Fall Flowers (for the urns located in front of the library)
- Teen Advisory Board pizzas

Connie Morella Library

- Blooming Adventures: Garden Stories from Zora Neale Hurston
- Meet the Artists: North Bethesda Camera Club Exhibit Grand Opening and Reception

Damascus Library

- STEM at the Library: Animal Ambassadors
- Cantaré, Mucha Música!

Davis Library (North Bethesda)

- Celebrate Black History Month with Culture Queen!
- Celebrate Lunar New Year with KuangChi Chinese School

Gaithersburg Library

- Reading Reptiles with Reptile Smiles
- Yoga with Archana

Germantown Library

- Little Dragon Story Hour
- Kids Yoga: Creating Mindful Moments

Kensington Park Library

- The Long Road to Freedom: Walking the Underground Railroad MD to Canada
- Silly Goose & Val Children's Artist

Little Falls Library

- Storytime Yoga
- Literary Salon

Long Branch Library

- Stuffy Toy Wellness Clinic
- Musical Performance by Walter W. Ware

Maggie Nightingale Library (Poolesville)

- Science Saturday: Discovering Magnets!
- STEM Adventure with the Science Guys!

Marilyn J. Praisner Library (Burtonsville)

- Valentine's Day Cookie Decoration
- STEM at the Library: Glow in the Dark Slime!

Noyes Library for Young Children

- Superb Saturday STEM
- Take & Make Kit Supplies

Olney Library

- Traditional Irish Dance with Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance
- Music with Ms. Stef

Potomac Library

- Yoga with Archana
- Rock & Read: A Musical Program with Tony Music

Quince Orchard Library

- Celebrate the Year of the Snake with Jenn's Uncommon Critters
- Celebrate Black History Month at Quince Orchard Library with Culture Queen!

Rockville Memorial Library

- Mr. Jon & Friends
- Wellness Wednesdays: Chakra Meditation

Twinbrook Library

- Teen Career Skills Fair
- Family Storytime at Twinbrook Library

Wheaton Library

- Researching Your Female Ancestors
- Music from Broadway and the Movies with Michael Hayes

White Oak

- Montgomery History Presents: Josiah Henson: the Man and the Myth
- World Hijab Day

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Rockville, Maryland 20850-2389

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Wheaton Bookstore

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friends OF THE LIBRARY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

A race to benefit Friends of the Library,
Montgomery County in support of
Montgomery County Public Libraries



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RUN/WALK FOR LIBRARIES

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | WHEATON REGIONAL PARK